

03500.017948

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Kenichi HAYASHI, et al.

Application No.: 10/789,985

Filed: March 2, 2004

For: SHEET PROCESSING APPARATUS
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
INCLUDING THE SHEET PROCESSING)
APPARATUS :

)
: Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey

)
: Group Art Unit: 3651

)
:
: February 9, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Japanese document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document is also enclosed.

The concise explanation of relevance of the Japanese document is found in the English Abstract attached thereto and in the enclosed computer-generated English language translation thereof.

02/10/2006 HALI11 00000080 10789985

01 FC:1806

180.00 OP

Applicants further submit the following comments on this document.

In the sheet processing apparatus of Japanese Document No. 2003-081517, all of sheets which should be held in the sheet holding portion upstream of the conveying direction are understood to be switched back, and the sheet processing apparatus is understood to hold the sheets by making the upstream end portion abut with the abutting portion, and further is understood to discharge the above-mentioned held sheets under the above-mentioned alignment state.

In contrast, the stored sheets are discharged from the sheet holding portion when a downstream edge in the conveying or discharging direction of a sheet to be supplied last has preceded the downstream edges in the conveying or discharging direction of the sheets held in the sheet holding portion by a predetermined amount, as recited in Claims 1 and 14.

By this arrangement, the present invention can reduce the sheet conveying time, and can improve the sheet processing efficiency and the alignment ability after the held sheets are discharged to the processing tray or sheet stacking means.

FORMAL MATTERS

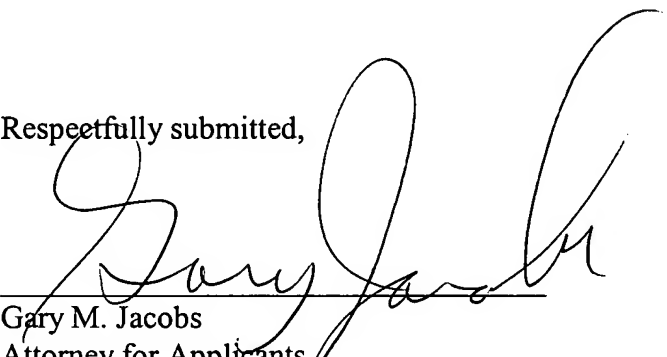
Enclosed is a check for the required fee of \$180.00 for this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) and § 1.17(p). Please charge any additional fee required, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned, indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ:ayr

DC-MAIN 230627 v1

